

Suzanne Garaffa's testimony

My name is Suzanne Garaffa, and I live in West Hartford. I am writing in support of HB 5277-An Act Concerning the Establishment of Technical Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment that Promotes Accessibility in Health Care Facilities. I am one of the approximately 55,000 Connecticut residents who have mobility limitations, and I struggle to get adequate health care because of lack of accessible medical diagnostic equipment.

I am a patient with Hartford Healthcare and have had appointments with primary care doctors in two of their facilities. I used to go to their office in Windsor, where there was no accessible scale. My PCP told me that I could go to the Emergency Room to get weighed. When I complained, he suggested that I write a complaint to Hartford Healthcare CEO Jeffrey Flaks; I have written and phoned Mr. Flaks and never gotten a response of any kind. In the meantime, I have moved and am now going to the Hartford Healthcare offices on South Main Street in West Hartford. Although these offices have been recently renovated, there still is no accessible scale.

At the moment, I get weighed at the Hospital For Special Care in New Britain, but they have told me that I have reached my plateau for physical therapy, so they are discharging me eventually. Once I can no longer go to the Hospital For Special Care, I have no way to get weighed.

In 2022 this should not be going on.